

PHIL BREDESEN
THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE

May 24, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing to respectfully request a Secretarial Designation of Natural Disaster for Agriculture for 13 counties in the state of Tennessee due to heavy and historic rainfall that began April 30, 2010, and devastating flooding that subsequently occurred. The counties include:

Benton, Chester, Dickson, Fayette, Hardeman, Hickman, Humphreys, Lauderdale, Lewis, Maury, McNairy, Perry and Stewart.

Farmers in these counties have experienced significant crop damage to winter wheat and losses of recently planted corn, cotton and other crops. Additionally, there are extensive damages to farm structures, equipment and conservation practices as well as reports of livestock losses. Specialty crops such as fruits and vegetables, and horticultural crops were affected as well. In some cases, areas of the state experienced as much as 16 to 20 inches of rainfall within a 36 hour period.

It is my understanding, if approved, that a secretarial designation would make qualified farmers in these counties eligible to apply for supplemental revenue payments and other disaster assistance not covered by current or pending Presidential declarations for this event.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if there is anything the state of Tennessee can do facilitate the approval process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Bredesen", with a stylized, cursive script.

Phil Bredesen

cc: Commissioner Ken Givens
Eugene Davidson, State Executive Director, USDA-FSA